

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 32544 201937Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 NEA-10 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 060603

R 201805Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5626

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32544

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: A) MOSCOW 15220

B) PARIS 31998

C) PARIS 32406

D) MOSCOW 15571

1. SUMMARY: WHILE THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CRITICAL ARTICLES IN THE SOVET PRESS WITH CLOSE ATTENTION, THE QUAI SEEMS SOMEWHAT RELIEVED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT INSERTED POLEMICS INTO RECENT OFFICIAL VISITS. THIS WILL FACE STRONGER TEST, HOWEVER, WHEN SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV ARRIVES HERE IN EARLY JANUARY FOR POLITICAL TALKS WITH QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR ARNAUD. MEANWHILE, SOVIET DCM THINKS HIS AMBASSADOR MAY HAVE FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR DATE OF BREZHNEV-POMPIDOU SUMMIT WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO PARIS FROM LEAVE AROUND CHRISTMAS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING BROAD COVERAGE TO SOVIET ARTICLES CRITICAL OF FRENCH EUROPEAN POLICY. IN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW ON DECEMBER 7, COMMUNIST DAILY L'HUMANITE PLAYED UP PRAVDA ARTICLE OF PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL A). NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY, IT NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDED THAT HE HAD CLEARLY BEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 32544 201937Z

THE TARGET. IT ADDED THAT JOBERT'S DECLARATIONS ON "CONDOMINIUM"

AND HIS NOVEMBER 21 WEU SPEECH WERE BEING CAREFULLY ANALYZED IN MOSCOW. THE NEXT DAY, FRENCH MEDIA WERE ABLE TO REPORT THAT NEW TIMES HAD IN EFFECT CONFIRMED THE L'HUMANITE ANALYSIS IN CRITICIZING JOBERT BY NAME. GOLOCHUBOV'S DECEMBER 13 CRITICISM IN IZVESTIYA OF EC NINE EFFORTS TO CREATE A "LITTLE EUROPE" WAS FEATURED BY LE MONDE'S MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT ON THE 15TH, AND AFP REPORTING ON IZVESTIYA COMMENTARIES OF THE 18TH ON THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT EMPHASIZED POLITICAL AND MILITARY THEMES. MEANWHILE, SOVIET REPORTAGE ON THE "CANARD ENCHAINE" WIRETAPPING AFFAIR HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED IN THE PARIS PRESS.

3. ACCORDING TO JEAN BROUSTE, SOVIET DESK OFFICER AT THE QUAI, THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ALL THIS QUITE CLOSELY AND ARE MILDLY RELIEVED THAT THE SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN HAS NOT GONE FURTHER THAN IT HAS. THEY ARE ALSO GRATIFIED THAT THE VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES GALLEY TO MOSCOW DECEMBER 3-11 (REFTELS B AND D), AND THAT THE SOVIET TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEVE HERE DECEMBER 5-8 (REFTEL C), WERE FREE OF POLEMICS WITH SOLE EXCEPTION OF GRECHKO TOAST AT BEGINNING OF GALLEY VISIT (REFTEL D). HOWEVER, HE FEELS THE REAL TEST WILL COME WHEN SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH ARNAUD. KOVALEV IS DUE IN PARIS ABOUT JANUARY 10, PRIOR TO THE RECONVENING OF THE CSCE, WHERE HE IS HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION.

4. AS FOR THE BREZHNEV-POMPIDOU SUMMIT, BOTH THE FRENCH AND SOVIETS TELL US THE DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET. ON DECEMBER 19, SOVIET CHARGE KIZICHENKO TOLD THE DCM THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO MAY BRING A FORMAL PROPOSAL WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO PARIS FROM LEAVE IN THE USSR AROUND CHRISTMAS.

5. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIAL FALL-OUT FROM THE DECEMBER 9 PRESS CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD OF FRENCH STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DE LIPKOWSKI WHEREIN HE WAS QUOTED AS COMING OUT AGAINST THE SOVIET ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL AND AS HINTING AT ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN TO COUNTERBALANCE THOSE OF THE SOVIETS TO INDIA. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESUMABLY ADDED THIS TO THEIR LIST OF "GRIEVANCES."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 32544 201937Z

6. COMMENT: WHILE BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE SOVIETS HERE SEEM TO BE PUTTING THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON THE STATE OF THEIR RELATIONS, AT LEAST IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH US, THE STRAIN REMAINS ALL TOO EVIDENT. AS DE LIPKOWSKI'S REMARKS SHOWED, THE FRENCH WILL NOT HESITATE TO TAKE PUBLIC ISSUE WITH MOSCOW, EVEN AT THE RISK OF CAUSING FURTHER ANTAGONISM. HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO WANT AT LEAST THE SEMBLANCE OF NORMAL RELATIONS TO FOSTER THEIR

SELF-SOUGHT ROLE AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR EUROPE AND TO HELP KEEP
THE PCF IN CHECK. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, THEY MAY BE APPREHENSIVE
THAT BY APPLYING TOO HEAVY A HAND, THEY COULD UNWITTINGLY HELP THE
FRENCH PLAY MORE EFFECTIVELY ON THE "EUROPEAN SECURITY"
AND "CONDOMINIUM" THEMES IN FURTHERING THEIR AMBITIONS IN THE
EC NINE. THUS, WHILE THE OUTLOOK IS FOR CONTINUED STRAIN,
PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL OPERATE UNDER SOME
RESTRAINT SO AS NOT TO ALLOW THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO DETERIORATE TOO
FAR.
IRWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS32544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731213/aaaaajhs.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MOSCOW 15220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005